



USAID
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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

USAID Newsletter

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Economic Development



USAID Facilitates Partnership between U.S. Government and Kyrgyz Businesses: On January 24, 2013, the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) signed its first contract with a Kyrgyz company through the Portal to Kyrgyz Business Project, implemented by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the USAID Local Development Program. CENTCOM announced on January 7, 2013 that the KBS Group LLC was the winner of a tender to supply equipment to Afghanistan. The company will supply two generators and transportation, under a contract for \$143,000. The Portal to Kyrgyz Businesses was created to improve the communication between the business community of the Kyrgyz Republic and United States Government contracting authorities to increase access to government contracts. AmCham's effort with the Portal to Kyrgyz Business is a Kyrgyz business-led activity that has

generated interest from various Department of Defense contracting authorities for continued financial support and possible expansion to all Central Asian States. Currently, 114 Kyrgyz companies have registered with the Portal to Kyrgyz Business.

Photo: contract signing ceremony. From left to right: Major Joel Kleehammer, Office of Military Cooperation, U.S. Embassy Bishkek Chief; Kuban Kojomuratov, Director of KBS Group LLC; Almaz Dushembiev, Portal to Kyrgyz Business Project Manager; and Major Tom Goerling, CENTCOM Joint Theater Support Contracting Command.



U.S. Government Improves Seed Production in the Kyrgyz Republic:

On February 27-28, USAID, in close cooperation with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (GOK), handed over 94 pieces of agricultural machinery, including tractors, combine harvesters, ploughs and seed cleaners to 14 seed farms from throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. This assistance, worth of \$7.4 million will help develop a sustainable seed industry in the country and is part of the Economic Development Fund Program. The participating seed farms will help ensure

that the domestic market's needs for high quality seed are met while also expanding opportunities for export to regional and international markets. The program was jointly designed by the U.S. Government and the GOK and jointly implemented by USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Photo 1: Iskender Murzaliyev, Director of Kyzyl-Oktyabr seed farm, and Dooletbek Avazkanov, Director of Jayil farm.

Photo 2: USAID Representative Carey Gordon (right) with Minister of Agriculture and Melioration Chyngyzbek Usakbaev



Democracy and Governance



Civil Society and Legislators Encourage Citizens to Engage with the Parliament:

On January 14, 2013, the International Center Interbilim (Interbilim), a Kyrgyz NGO, facilitated a discussion with civil society organizations in the southern part of the Kyrgyz Republic on procedures for promoting legislation to the Parliament. The workshop, held in the southern city of Osh, is part of Interbilim's efforts to teach civic actors how to better engage with Parliament. Interbilim, with support from USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI), developed an instruction manual to help promote wider citizen participation in public decision-making by teaching civil society groups how to interact with

the Parliament during the legislative process. "Involving representatives of different communities, associations of citizens and businesses, and vulnerable groups into the legislation development and implementation processes should bring more effective and popular laws, decisions and programs," say Interbilim's Jibek Koichukulova and Anna Kirilenko, developers of the manual. Interbilim held a similar presentation for Bishkek-based NGOs.



Photo 1: representatives of civil society organizations.

Photo 2: a sample of the instructional manual.



Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic and USAID Sign MOU: On February 7, 2013, the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a memorandum of understanding designed to improve the qualification examination process for defense advocates and notaries. The work will be conducted as part of the USAID "Support to the Kyrgyzstani Legal Defense Community Program," which is being implemented by USAID's partners, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), and the Advocates Training Center (ATC). The qualification exam will be conducted by electronic testing and will include more than 1,000 questions, which will be randomly assigned to test takers. The results will be available immediately after the completion of the exam. With

USAID support, ABA ROLI will provide computer equipment to the Ministry of Justice to conduct the qualification exam. Access to the equipment and to the exam questions and answers will be restricted to personnel directly responsible for preparation and conduct of the exam. ABA ROLI, in cooperation with the ATC, will provide a pre-qualification exam pilot training course for prospective advocates and separate trainings for state notaries to improve their professional qualifications. "In recent years, many countries have converted their legal qualification exam programs to computer-based systems, which have built-in safeguards to ensure fairness and impartiality," said Carey N. Gordon, USAID Representative to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Photo: USAID Representative Carey Gordon (right) shakes hands with Minister of Justice Almambet Shikmamatov after signing the MOU.



U.S. Government Supports Efforts to Engage Citizens in Public Budgeting Process:

On February 15, 2013, the Public Fund Abad held a roundtable discussion on how citizens can more effectively participate in the budgeting process. Representatives of the Ministry of Finance and State Agency on Regional Development, Parliament, and local council deputies, as well as local government officials from townships in the southern provinces of Batken, Osh and Jalalabad attended the event. From September 2012 to February 2013, the United States Agency for International Development Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) supported Abad to train and mentor local government officials and Public Advisory Boards (PAB) of eight townships in the south to conduct Community Based Performance Monitoring (CBPM) of local government services using citizen evaluation cards. The goal of the project was to promote regular engagement between local government and citizens on budgeting processes so that local

budgets can respond to citizen priorities. The activity included focus group discussions to identify citizen priorities, citizen surveys to evaluate quality of local government services, and public hearings to present findings.

Photo: local council deputies and Jogorku Kenesh deputies engage in a discussion on how citizens can more effectively participate in the budgeting process

For more information about USAID in the Kyrgyz Republic contact:

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